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Estacado is singularly void of surface water, but throughout its whole extent there is an underground supply stored in the mortar beds and grits of Cenozoic age. It is the most remarkable sheet of underground water in the land. The structure of the Raton Plateau is inimical to favorable artesian conditions.

The Great Basin regions are characterized by the occurrence of disconnected mountain blocks separated by wide plains, most of which in comparatively recent times were occupied by vast inland seas. These basin plains are covered with loose unconsolidated sediment derived from the bordering elevations. The water precipitated upon the mountains finds its way to the plain, where it is quickly imbibed by the porous soil, percolating downward until it reaches an impervious stratum. This water is available by bored wells, but it may or may not possess, according to the stratifications and topography. The possible success of artesian borings in these basins is also suggested by the fact that numerous flowing wells have been obtained in similar basin deposits in California, Colorado and Utah. The paper is abundantly illustrated by wood-cuts, diagrams, sectional drawings, maps and charts.

**Evolution in Science, Philosophy and Art.**<sup>2</sup>—For a number of years it has been the custom of the Brooklyn Ethical Association to choose a subject for study during the winter months, and as an incentive to work a series of lectures are given, followed by discussions of the topic assigned for the evening. The present volume comprises seventeen lectures on the subject of Evolution, grouped under the several heads of Science, Philosophy, and Art.

The opening lecture of the course, on the work of Alfred Russel Wallace, shows that the general drift of American thought is toward the neolamarkian school of evolutionists. Chemistry, Electric and Magnetic Physics, Botany, Zoology, Optics, and Form and Color in Nature are monographed by specialists in those departments.

The group under the head of Philosophy comprises the life-work, and philosophical system of Prof. Ernst Haeckel; an exposition of the scientific method, a presentation of the principles of Spencer's Synthetic Philosophy, Life as a Fine Art, and a discussion of the doctrine of evolution, its scope and influence.

The progress of art in general is traced in the lectures on Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, and Music. Thus it is that while some of

<sup>2</sup>Evolution in Science, Philosophy and Art. Popular lectures and discussions before the Brooklyn Ethical Association, New York. D. Appleton & Co., 1891.

the questions discussed have a purely speculative interest, others have a practical bearing on every-day life.

**Outlines of Lessons in Botany.**<sup>3</sup>—Miss Newell has adopted a pleasant method of introducing the study of plant life to children. This volume (Part 2) treats of flowers and fruit. Beginning with the early bulbous plants she gives directions for observing, comparing and describing the various parts of the flower. As the lessons progress through the spring flowers, common weeds, composites and summer flowers, opportunity is given to discuss in detail the functions of the different organs, cross-fertilization, æstivation, inflorescence, the seed, the fruit, and the morphology of the flower. Points are brought out by pertinent questions, and so by easy stages the child is taught to observe for himself. Brief descriptions of sixty families of flowering plants are given in addition to the ones described in the lessons. The illustrations are numerous and good.

<sup>3</sup>Outlines of Lessons in Botany, by Jane H. Newell. Part 2, Flower and Fruit, illustrated by H. P. Symmes. Ginn & Co., Publishers, Boston, 1892.